

20-451 Sheriffs' Housing of State Inmates

Agency Description

The mission of the Sheriff's Housing Program to provide a safe and secure environment for the adult male and female offenders and juveniles who have been committed to state custody and are awaiting transfer to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), Corrections Services. Due to space limitations in state correctional institutions, the DPS&C, Corrections Services, continues its partnership with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and other local governing authorities by utilizing parish and local jails for housing offenders. The state reimburses sheriffs at the rate of \$22.39 per day (FY 2001-2002 rate) per state inmate housed in local jails. The state also reimburses juvenile detention centers \$86.79 (FY 2001-2002 rate) per day per offender for those pending secure placement in accordance with Act 1018 of 2001. Louisiana houses more state offenders in local jails than any other state.

According to a 2000 Legislative Fiscal Office survey, 14 of 16 Southern Legislative Conference states surveyed confined inmates in local jails. The shifting of inmates to the local level has caused some jails to house inmates in excess of designed capacities. Of the ten state reporting local jail capacity data, state inmates filled approximately 19.5% of those beds. Local jail populations exceed reported capacity in five of the seven states reporting total jail populations. In Louisiana, state prisoners generally occupy about 43.8% of the prisoner beds available in local prisons.

Because of the critical need for close coordination between state and local government in the management of prison and jail bed space, the DPS&C, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and other interested parties have forged a Community Corrections Partnership to assure maximum efficiency in the system. Assistance in the construction of new jail space, effective utilization of the space, and a joint monitoring and quality assurance mechanism are key components. The department and local public entities agree to provide jail space in excess of local needs in exchange for the state's commitment to utilize a fixed percentage of the space. This arrangement enables financing of the facility when other options are not available and allows expansion of the number of beds for local use as well as state use. As of August 2001, the department has 30 cooperative endeavor agreements for adult beds, all of which has been approved by the Division of Administration.

The department and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association have jointly developed a comprehensive set of basic jail guidelines, which must be followed by any parish prison or local detention facility as a condition of housing state inmates. This voluntary quality assurance effort has done much to ensure that the basic conditions under which state inmates are housed in local facilities are safe and constitutional.

The goal of the Sheriffs' Housing of State Inmates Program is to continue the Community Corrections Partnership, which utilizes parish and local jails for housing offenders committed to the state's custody and awaiting transfer to Corrections Services and through the program.

AGENCY BUDGET SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACT 12 2001-2002	EXISTING 2001-2002	CONTINUATION 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$138,907,751	\$137,799,245	\$137,799,245	\$144,448,335	\$144,448,335	\$6,649,090
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$138,907,751	\$137,799,245	\$137,799,245	\$144,448,335	\$144,448,335	\$6,649,090
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Sheriffs' Housing of State Inmates	\$138,907,751	\$137,799,245	\$137,799,245	\$144,448,335	\$144,448,335	\$6,649,090
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$138,907,751	\$137,799,245	\$137,799,245	\$144,448,335	\$144,448,335	\$6,649,090
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0